IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Balmer et al.

Examiner: Lam, Cathy

Serial No.: 09/977,175

Art Unit: 1775

Filed: October 12, 2001

Confirmation No.: 2853

Docket No.: A148 1610.1

NSE

GROUP 1700

THREE DIMENSIONAL WELDING ROD AND SURFACE COVERING

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

For:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed June 6, 2003. Please amend the application as follows: